

Economic Development Committee Update

December, 2020

NOTE: The EDC meeting for November was cancelled due to sickness and trying to follow the State Covid guidelines so unfortunately some things were not able to be addressed so much of our status has stayed the same.

1. **CGI BANNER PROGRAM:** The committee continued to work with Bethany and CGI Communications to investigate a free banner program they are offering the town as a way to replace our banners at no cost to the town. We presented the plan to the Commission workshop to give everyone a head's up of the program.
2. **STRATEGIC GOALS:** The committee is working on an evaluation of the original strategic goals done during the State supported study from 4 years ago. As this task is a fairly large undertaking the committee will be looking at some short term goals (e.g., branding, banners). We will also contact Rick Ferrell (who helped with the Downtown Delaware District application) to see how he may be able to help.
3. **SIDEWALK AND SIGNAL BOX ART:** The sidewalk and signal box projects are in limbo right now waiting for the state to determine when the highway will be repaved.
4. **EDC WEBPAGE:** The EDC is continuing to work on an Economic Development webpage for current and potential residents and business owners to access as a place to go to promote the town. Work is continuing although we will also be discussing a program the University of Delaware has that Suzanne Farris heard about at a separate meeting (see her quote below).

"University of Delaware has a program where they will pair organizations with teams of 3-5 students who are completing their Master of Information Science degree. Those teams of students need to solve a problem for the organization, using the skills they have learned as part of their program. One of the activities that they often do is to research and build websites for organizational clients. This year, they are waiving any fees for the services provided."
5. **SIGN GRANT:** The EDC committee will be looking at how to publicize and help local businesses in need of support with the recently approved Sign Grant program.
6. **OPEN POSITIONS:** The EDC still has numerous positions open on the committee. If the Commission has any suggestions for volunteers, especially real estate and business owners, please let us know.
7. **CHRISTMAS PARADE:** The committee will be discussing how or if a Christmas Parade or function should be done this year because of the possible Covid restrictions.

Richard Grinnell

Chairperson, Economic Development Committee